



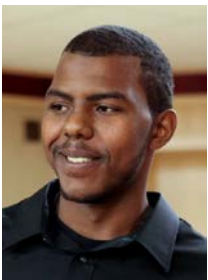
## 2011 World Café Speaker Bios



**Theresa Reed** is the Program Director for the Foster/Kinship Care Education and Independent Living Programs at Pasadena City College (PCC). Ms. Reed earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics with a specialization in Social Behavioral Science at Cal State Los Angeles. She is grateful for the opportunity to pursue a Master's degree in Education through a partnership with the National Foster Parent Association and the University of Phoenix. She is also the Foster Youth Success Initiative Co-Liaison at PCC, providing support for any foster youth wanting to access the community college. She chairs the Communications subcommittee for the Court and Scholars collaborative. For over ten years, Ms. Reed has been a facilitator for both foster parent and foster youth trainings. Her years in the foster care system have been the inspiration to begin writing a series of books to encourage foster youth and those supporting them. Ms. Reed is most proud of her role as mother of two and grandmother of one.



Major General **Donna Dacier**, U.S. Army (Retired), has 34 years of experience as a communications officer and senior leader. In Southwest Asia, she oversaw the operations and expansion of the largest wartime military communications network. MG (Ret.) Dacier has broad experience in strategic planning, force management, and organizational design, the US Army and Department of Defense requirements and resourcing processes, and program analysis. MG (Ret.) Dacier graduated with a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and a Master of Science from Boise State University in Instructional and Performance Technology. She is a veteran of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. A current resident of Riverside, California, MG (Ret.) Dacier is President of IZ Technologies in Ashburn, Virginia. She serves on the California Veterans Affairs Board and was recognized by the US Army Chief of Signal as a Distinguished Member of the Army's Signal Regiment.



**Kyshin Meyers** was born in San Francisco and raised in Oakland, California. He entered the Alameda County foster care system as a young child and lived in multiple group homes. In 2003, at the age of 13, he was transferred to a group home in Sacramento. After the group home closed and Mr. Meyers turned 18, he decided to stay in Sacramento. While living with a friend in Roseville, California, Mr. Meyers traveled daily to Oak Park to pursue his high school diploma. He was able to achieve this goal while temporarily living in his own apartment. After attempting to reunite with family in Oakland, Mr. Meyers became homeless but chose to pursue a career rather than living a life of crime. Mr. Meyers has now been homeless for various lengths of time since June of 2009. He has attended Alameda Community College and Consumnes River College, but had to recently postpone studies while he works and saves money. Today, Mr. Meyers is employed, saving money for a rent deposit, and looking for a place to live in Sacramento. Mr. Meyers has been Senator Liu's advisor on homeless youth since November 2010.



**Will Lopez** was born to a single immigrant mother with five kids and raised in the San Fernando Valley. He was part of a very normal, dysfunctional family. When he was 11, he joined a gang. As a result, he was incarcerated from the age of 11 until the age of 25, in-and-out of the California juvenile hall, juvenile camp, and state prison systems. At the age of 25 he decided it was time to make a change and turn his life around, so he went to Homeboy Industries for help and a job. He continues to learn and grow as a human being. Today he is a Domestic Violence and Restorative Justice Facilitator and one of Homeboy's Creative Writing Instructors. Will enjoys his job at Homeboy and the time he gets to spend working in the community, giving back. But the most important job Will now has is being a contributing member to his family, as a father, son, brother and husband.